



John Salomone  
Town Manager

# TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 Cedar Street Newington, Connecticut 06111

## Department of Human Services



Kenneth Freidenberg  
Director

### **HUMAN SERVICES EXPERIENCING A 20% INCREASE IN NEED FOR THE ANNUAL HOLIDAY FOOD, TOY AND GIFT PROGRAMS**

***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 30, 2009***

***Contact: Ken Freidenberg, Director of Human Services @ 665-8660***

The Newington Department of Human Services is preparing for its annual Holiday Food Toy and Gift Program.

Director Ken Freidenberg commented: "This year we are experiencing a 20% increase in need with monetary contributions down by almost 40% from last year at this time. Many more Newington households are experiencing hardship due to unemployment, underemployment, illness, chronic medical conditions, fixed income, and loneliness. Last year, dedicated volunteers distributed holiday food, toys and gifts to 311 households composed of over 700 residents including 70 homebound elderly and individuals with disabilities. The community has always been extremely supportive and generous in an effort to make the holidays brighter for residents in need."

Food baskets are distributed to eligible households the week before Thanksgiving on **November 19**. Toys and gifts are distributed the week of **December 14**. A list of food items is included in this press release.

Human Services can also give you information regarding specific needs for food and gifts. Generic donations are also welcome.

For the December holidays, some residents request practical items such as bath and toiletry baskets, books, jewelry, sports team sweat shirts, board games, wallets, pocketbooks, men and women slippers, cheese and cracker baskets, movies, videos, thermal gloves for men and women, warm sox of all sizes, perfume, after-shave, picture frames, batteries, disposable cameras, gift cards to purchase batteries, clothes, medication, phone cards, make-up and nail polishing kits. Monetary donations are also appreciated as the Department will purchase gift certificates so residents can choose the items they want.

**Residents, businesses, and other organizations interested in sponsoring households for the December holidays can contact the Department at 665-8590. Donations can be sent to the Newington Department of Human Services 131 Cedar Street, Newington, CT 06111**

Phone: (860) 665-8590 Fax: (860) 665-8599  
humanservices@newingtonct.gov  
www.newingtonct.gov

## **SUGGESTED HOLIDAY FOOD ITEMS**

### **Meats**

Canned hams (non perishable)  
Frozen Turkey breasts (must be donated frozen)  
Canned Tuna & chicken

### **Canned Vegetables**

Low salt/no salt and regular potatoes, squash, carrots, beets, peas, yams, olives

### **Canned Fruit (no glass containers)**

Low sugar/no sugar and regular peaches, pears, fruit cocktail, pineapple, applesauce, cranberry sauce

### **Pasta,**

All shapes, and boxed macaroni & cheese

### **Rice, Boxed Potato Flakes**

### **Stuffing**

Bags or boxes

### **Beverages (no glass containers)**

Juice (cranberry, apple, tomato, V-8)  
Juice boxes  
Hi-C, Punch  
Tea/Coffee (decaf & regular)

### **Sauces**

Turkey gravy, Spaghetti sauce, Salad dressing

### **Cereals (hot & cold)**

Oatmeal  
Breakfast bars  
Pop tarts  
Cold Cereals (Cheerios, Special K, etc.)

### **Desserts**

Cake mix, Brownie mix, Muffin mix  
Frosting  
Quick bread mix  
Canned pie filling and pie shell mix  
Holiday nut packages